ZM90DX Press Release

After World War 1 and with the banishment of radio amateurs to the supposedly "useless shorter wavelengths" an amazing period of radio exploration took place. Amateurs all over the globe soon learnt that far from being useless these wavelengths seem to allow communication over long distances. Amateurs in ZL were at the forefront of this activity with the first ZL to VK QSO in April 1923, and then world record distance QSOs between ZL and Argentina in May 1924, ZL and California in September 1924, ZL and Connecticut on the US east coast just weeks later, and the ultimate Z4AA Frank Bell's QSO with Cecil Goyder, G2SZ, in London on 18 October 1924.

To commemorate the 90th anniversary of the record breaking activities of these early pioneers of Amateur Radio, ZM90DX will be on the air between 1 October 2013 and 31 October 2014 on all bands 1,8 MHz to 1,2 GHz and beyond in all modes. Activated by the Kiwi DX Group, an informal group of DXers and contest enthusiasts, ZM90DX will be used around New Zealand and a special commemorative QSL card will be available as well as an award program for contacts with ZL during this period.

Not only will ZM90DX be active at expected times and on expected bands, but in the spirit of those early pioneers the ZM90DX operators will also be calling CQ on bands and in directions one may not necessarily expect with the intention of exploring the boundaries of radio propagation.

This will be an unparalleled opportunity for Amateurs all over the world to work ZL while celebrating the exploits of those early trail blazers whose work paved the way for radio communications as we know it today.

Further details can be found on http://www.zm90dx.com/.

Note: "Please remember this is a ZL based activity NOT ZL9 Campbell & Auckland Islands". ENSURE your logging software logs ZM90DX correctly as ZL and NOT ZL9, Auckland / Campbell Islands. To update the Country File for your logging software please visit http://www.country-files.com/

Radiosport to a Spectator

This issue begins a multi-part conversation about visualization and amateur radio - both contesting and non-contesting and both for amateurs and non-amateurs. I've been thinking about the "spectator" aspect of amateur radio ever since being a part of the 1990 WRTC organizing committee. WRTC-1990 was held in Seattle, WA at the same time as the Goodwill Games www.goodwillgames.com/html/past_1990frame.html, creating a great demand for stories in the news. WRTC was fortunate to receive quite a bit of coverage from local stations that described radiosport and the basics of the competition.
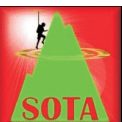
Current Summits-on-the-Air (SOTA) activities are announced at
www.sotawatch.org
And more SOTA information can be found at www.sota.org.uk

*Have **YOU** done anything today to Promote **Amateur Radio?***

September

4 - Secretary's Day
5 and 6 - Rosh Hashanah
6 - Casual Day
7 and 8 - IARU Region 1 SSB Field Day; RSGB SSB Field Day
12 - Closing date for October RAE
14 - Yom Kippur
20 - Schools close
20 to 22 - Maloti Makiti, Fouriesburg
21 and 22 - SARL VHF/ UHF Contest
22 - Spring Equinox
23 to 27 - IARU Region 2 General Conference, Cancun, Mexico
24 - Heritage Day; SARL Heritage Day Sprint
26 to 29 - Hermanus Flower Festival
28 and 29 - CW WW RTTY Contest

October

1 - Schools open
3 - SARL 80 metre QSO Party
5 - Spring QRP Contest
5 and 6 - RSGB 21/28 MHz Contest
12 and 13 - AWA AM and SSB Contest
16 - Bosses Day
17 - Radio Amateur Examination
19 - CQ Hou Koers
19 and 20 - Jamboree-on-the-Air
26 and 27 - CQ WW DX Phone Contest

An unexpected question was frequently received from members of the public who asked, "This sounds really interesting - where can I watch?" We had no answer for them in those days of faxes and phone calls. There were no websites or email or cell phone messaging services to use. Folks were quite disappointed! In the aftermath of the competition, this subject was discussed at length - how can we make the excitement of Radiosport available to the public? The question remains open.

We are not the only sport with a spectator deficit, it turns out. A good example is round-the-world yacht races that take place mostly out of view. The recent article, "The Annotated America's Cup" http://spectrum.ieee.org/consumer-electronics/audiovideo/the-augmented-reality-americas-cup in the September 2013 issue of *IEEE Spectrum* set me back a little. With all that money and all that coverage, they still have a spectator problem? Apparently! The article talks about how they put computer technology to work on the craft and in the production studio to make the race "come alive" for the viewer without requiring an intimate knowledge of sailing.

Although we can't match that budget, we can certainly think about how to present what we do on contest weekends to the non-amateur. They can get the basics pretty quickly - we've all explained it before - the goal is to make contacts as fast as you can in as many different places as you can during the contest period. This is not hard to communicate but it's rather dispassionate. One could just as well describe auto racing - the cars go as fast as they can for as long as they can and the first car over the finish line wins. Whoopee. Where's the excitement?

The excitement is in the skill and the challenges, enabled by technology, and described by a master sportscaster who knows the game, the players, the history, and the techniques. The successful sports program combines coverage of the action with a whole host of other content - interviews, diagrams, history and statistics - and strives to not let the focus dwell too long on any single aspect.

In this sense, presenting a radio contest would be somewhat like golf. In a match, there are many players on different holes taking their shots in differing circumstances. Every player has various strengths and weaknesses. There are statistics for both the current match and the history of the player. But watching just one player (think "web cam in the shack") would be quite boring. After all, when watching golf you never see more than 30 seconds of anybody actually playing the game. An announcer calls the shot and then the director cuts to someplace else on the course. Hmmm...with enough announcers...we could do that!

"Hiram Maxim here at Radiosport Central, welcome back to World Wide Weekend. The contest is about half over as we approach 0000 UTC on Sunday. At the turning point, the leaderboard is looking like several stations are making their move and...we've got some breaking action at W1AW, let's cut to Howard Kyoosell...Howard?"

"Hiram, I'm here at the W1AW multi-multi, where the 15 meter operator is about to attempt busting a HUGE JA pileup - the likes of which I have. Never. Heard. Before. He's needs to work XW8KPL in Cambodia for a double multiplier. And need I say, ladies and gentlemen, this will be via the long path. Let's listen in...
"He's calling, did he make it through? NO, it looks like the XW8 came back to JA8RWU. Akira is just awfully tough to beat on 15.

"Here he goes again, he's trying the two-second delay technique and...there it goes...did he get through? YES!!! He's done it, he's cracked that. Enormous. Pileup. Of. Screaming. Operators! You can hear the double mult ringing on the bell and we are happy here in Newington, Connecticut.

"This is Howard Kyoosell at W1 Alpha Whiskey, back to you, Hiram..."

We'll be right back after these messages...

73, Ward NØAX

Operating Tip and a Word to the Wise

Guy, K2AV, notes there are a lot of changes in the CQ World Wide Contest rules http://www.cqww.com/rules.htm. With the contest weekends not far away (CQ WW RTTY is 28 and 29 Sept) it would be a *good* idea to make sure you have read the current versions of the rules before the starting bell!

Catnap - while much is made of the 90-minute sleep cycle, a great deal of alertness can be restored by a short bit of shut-eye. Or just a walk in the fresh air. Or maybe a shower? Take a break!

Free online contest log analyser

Yan XV4Y has released version 1.00 of his free online contest log analyser, QScope.org http://qscope.org/. The service provides a number of statistics on single logs or groups of logs in ADIF or Cabrillo format. The chart at right shows a typical pie chart breaking down QSOs by band. There are many other statistics available, such as uniques (one-time contacts - the service does not validate calls), CQ and ITU zones worked, QSO rates, maximum rates, QSO points, etc. There is a statistic for every need, it seems.

African DX

Republic of South Sudan, Z8. Martti, OH2BH, sent out the following on 5 September: "Under the auspices of Project Goodwill South Sudan, shared with the International Amateur Radio Union Region 1 and the Yasme Foundation and supported by Yaesu Musen Co. Ltd, the announcement of a much anticipated low-band operation is only a few weeks away. The multinational team is busy getting the equipment and other material into South Sudan.

Adding to the Z81X operation of last spring, Robert, S53R, will be in Juba, for a work assignment and will be involved with a preparatory phase of Project Goodwill South Sudan.

He is going to sign Z81R from 10 to 14 September, while the activity will be sporadic because of his professional duties. QSLs for this operation will be handled by Martti, OH2BH."

Namibia, V5. Operators Hardy, DF3GY, and Hans, DF2UU are active as V5/home calls from Omaruru from 7 to 15 September. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters using CW and SSB. They will be active as V55V in the IARU Region 1 SSB Field Day and the upcoming Worked All Europe SSB contests. QSL via DJ8VC.

Swaziland, 3DA0. Roger, ZS6RJ, and a Multi-International team of operators will be active as 3DA0ET from Piggs Peak, Swaziland, between 18 to 27 November. Some of the operators also took part in the 2012 7P8D DXpedition. Currently, the 12 operators mentioned are Emil, DL8JJ, Chris, G8APB, John, GW4SKA (RTTY Team Leader), Frosty, K5LBU (Co-Leader), George, KL7GS, Neil, VA7DX, Don, VE7DS, Keith, VE7MID (Low-Band Leader), Bob, W5UQ, Victor, WB0TEV, Sam, ZS6BRZ and Roger, ZS6RJ (Co-leader). They plan to have four stations on the air, covering all the HF bands (160-10 meters) and 6 meters (secondary) using CW, SSB and RTTY. There will be a focus on RTTY, and they plan to have a dedicated full-time RTTY station on the air from start to finish. Roger, ZS6RJ, informs readers, "We're also running an up-front survey (link on the home page) asking DXers what bands/modes etc. they need the most for Swaziland." Activity will also include the CQ WW DX CW Contest (23 and 24 November) as a Multi-two entry. Dick, N7RO, will be the QSL Manager for 3DA0ET. Tony, LZ1JZ, will be printing and supplying the QSL cards. QSOs will be uploading daily to LoTW and ClubLog. They will not be using eQSL. More specific details about direct and Bureau QSLs will follow in due course, closer toward the end of the DXpedition. Watch the 3DA0ET Web page for updates at http://www.swazidx.org

Sierra Leone, 9L. Operators David, N4WDT and Jerry, K4ZIN are planning to be active from here between 16 and 21 October and are currently waiting for a license approval. Activity will be on 160-10 meters with a focus on the 30, 17 and 12 metres and lower bands. They will have two stations on the air at less 12 or more hours a day. QSL via LoTW or via their home call signs.

DXCC News

JY9FC – Jordan, the current operation beginning August 2013 has been approved for DXCC credit. If you have had these rejected in a prior application, send a note to bmoore@arrl.org to be placed on the list for an update to your record. Please note the submission date and/or reference number where the rejection was noted to expedite the search for any rejected QSOs.

HF Happenings

African Islands

St Helena Island, ZD7. David, ZD7DC, is a 16 year old operator on St. Helena Island (AF-022). He states, "enjoy running a pile up – taking calls from any DX around the world. I rarely rag-chew but at times I do engage in longer QSOs. My working conditions include a Yaesu FT 450, powered by PSW 30, and a G5RV antenna tuned by MFJ 945E. I look forward to meeting you on air, and will reply to any QSL cards." Activity since 18 August shows David operates mainly SSB on 20, 17, 15, 12 and 10 metres between 14:30 – 00:00 UTC. QSL via his home call sign (direct only) listed on QRZ.com.

Madeira Island. Matt, DJ8OG will be active from Madeira Island (AF-014) between 10 and 17 September. He will participate in the WAE DX SSB Contest (14 and 15 September) as CR3L (QSL via DJ6QT); outside the contest he will be signing CT9/DJ8OG, with activity on the HF bands and 6 metres. QSL CT9/DJ8OG via home call, direct or bureau, and LoTW.

Reunion Island, FR. Willi, DJ7RJ, will be active as FR/DJ7RJ from Reunion Island (AF-016) between 28 September and 2 November. Activity will be on 160 - 10 metres using CW and SSB. He prefers low bands. Willi will use a K2 with a SS-Amp 500w into an INV-L 15m vertical and 12 m horizontal with 2-4 elevated radials each 20m long. QSL via DJ7RJ, direct or by the Bureau.

AF-013; 5R; Madagascar Island: Daniel/DF8UO will visit Madagascar on a work assignment from 12 until 20 September. He plans to work as 5R8UO during his free time. He will be active on 40 - 10 m on CW and digital modes, but also SSB for the WAE contest. QSL via LoTW and DF8UO (d/B). http://www.kaehny.fr/

DX Marathon 2014

John, K9EL, reports, "We are asking all interested parties for any ideas, suggestions or changes that would be helpful to the 2014 DX Marathon. The 2014 Rules will be finalised soon, so now is the time to express your thoughts and opinions. Please send all comments to john@dxmarathon.com. Thank you!.... K9EL - DX Marathon Manager. DX Marathon Web page is at www.dxmarathon.com. Also, join the "DXMarathon" group on Yahoo Groups!

Contest Calendar

This week's contests compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 9 to 16 September 2013

FISTS Get Your Feet Wet Weekend
00:00 UTC 13 September to 24:00 UTC 15 September
Mode: CW
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Newcomer; Experienced
Exchange: FISTS: RST, name, state, province or country, FISTS No. and last 2-digits of year licensed; non-FISTS: RST, name, state, province or country, power and last 2-digits of year licensed
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 2 points per QSO with different class; 1 point per QSO with same class
Multipliers: Each station worked licensed in the past 6 years once
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 15 October 2013
E-mail logs to: feetwetlogs@fists.org

Mail logs to: Feet Wet Log, c/o Curtis Gidding KC9UNL, 109-B West Tomaras Ave., Savoy, IL 61874, USA
Find rules at: http://www.fists.org/operating.html

QRP Fox Hunt
01:00 - 02:30 UTC 13 September
Mode: CW
Bands: 20 m Only
Classes: Single Op (Fox/Hound)
Max power: 5 watts
Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and power output
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 02:30 UTC 14 September 2013
E-mail logs to: (see rules)

(Continued from page 4)

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/summer_rules.htm

NCCC RTTY Sprint Ladder
01:30 UTC-02:00 UTC 13 September
Mode: RTTY
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 m
Classes: Single Op
Max power: 100 watts
Exchange: (see rules)
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station
Multipliers: Each US state (including KL7 and KH6) once per band; Each VE province once per band; Each North American country (except W/VE) once per band
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 15 September 2013
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at: http://www.3830scores.com
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html

NCCC Sprint
02:30 - 03:00 UTC 13 September
Mode: (see rules)
Bands: (see rules)
Classes: (none)
Exchange: (see rules)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 15 September 2013
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at: http://www.3830scores.com/
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html

FOC QSO Party
00:00 - 23:59 UTC 14 September
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, VHF
Classes: Single Op
Exchange: FOC-Member: RST, name and member no; non-Members: RST and name
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: FOC-Member: Score = Total QSOs/Total Member QSOs; non-Member: Score = Total Member QSOs
Submit logs by: 28 September 2013
E-mail log summary to: kz5d@aol.com
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://g4foc.org/Default.aspx?pageId=1143601

Kulikovo Polye Contest
00:00 - 23:59 UTC 14 September
Mode: CW
Bands: 20 m Only
Classes: Single Op – low, high or super
Max power: Super: no limit; High: 1 000W or less; Low: 100W or less
Exchange: KP: RST and "KP"; non-KP: RST and serial no
QSO Points: (see rules)
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 29 September 2013
E-mail logs to: log@kpctest.ru
Upload log at: http://ua9qcq.com/en/submit_log.php?lang=en
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://www.kpctest.ru/?pg=content/ruleen

WAE DX SSB Contest
00:00 UTC 14 September to 23:59 UTC 15 September
Mode: SSB
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op – high or low; Multi-Op; SWL
Max operating hours: Single Op: 36 hours, off times of at least 60 minutes
Multi-Single: 48 hours
Max power: HP: >100 Watts; LP: 100 Watts
Exchange: RS and serial no
Work stations: Once per band
Score Calculation: (see rules)
Submit logs by: 30 September 2013
E-mail logs to: waessb@dxhf.darc.de
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://www.darc.de/referate/dx/contest/waedc/en/rules/

CIS DX QPSK63 Contest
12:00 UTC 14 September to 12:00 UTC 15 September
Mode: QPSK63

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op – high or low;
MOST
Max power: HP: 100 watts; LP: 10 watts
Exchange: RSQ and DXDA number
QSO Points: (see rules)
Multipliers: Each DXDA area once
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 12:00 UTC 20 September 2013
Upload log at: http://ua9qcq.com/contests/submit_log_eng.php
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://www.epc-ru.ru/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1371&Itemid=282

Arkansas QSO Party
14:00 UTC 14 September to 02:00 UTC 15 September
Mode: CW, SSB, PSK
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 2 m
Classes: Single Op – SSB or mixed - QRP, low or high; Single Op CW – low or high; RTTY/PSK31 Only; Multi-Single; Multi-Multi; Mobile; Portable; Rover
Max power: HP: >150 watts; LP: 150 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: AR: RS(T) and County; non-AR: RS(T) and state, province or "DX"
Work stations: Once per band per mode per county
QSO Points: 1 point per SSB QSO, 2 points per CW/PSK/RTTY QSO, Bonus: 200 points per AA5AR or K5NE QSO
Multipliers: AR: Each AR county/state/province once and one "DX"; non-AR: Each AR county once
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 11 October 2013
E-mail logs to: aqplogs@cox.net
Mail logs to: Arkansas QSO Party, c/o Don Banta, K5DB, 3407 Diana St., Springdate, AR 72764, USA
Find rules at: http://www.arkanhams.org/aqp2013rules.pdf

North American SSB Sprint
00:00 - 04:00 UTC 15 September
Mode: SSB
Bands: 80, 40, 20 m
Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high
Max operating hours: 4 hours
Max power: HP: 1 500 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: other station's call, your call, serial no, your name and your state, province or country
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO
non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station
Multipliers: Each US state (including KL7) once; Each VE province once; Each North American country (except W/VE) once
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 21 September 2013
E-mail logs to: (see rules, web upload preferred)
Upload log at: http://www.ncjweb.com/sprintlogsubmit.php
Mail logs to: Chris Tate, N6WM, 12450 Del Valle Rd, Livermore, CA 94550, USA
Find rules at: http://www.ncjweb.com/sprintrules.php

Run for the Bacon QRP Contest
01:00 - 03:00 UTC 16 September
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Band; All Band
Max power: 5 watts
Exchange: RST, state, province or country and member no or power
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with non-member; 3 points per QSO with member on same continent; 5 points per QSO with member on different continent
Multipliers: Each state, province, or country once; Multiply mults by 2 if >50 members worked
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 22 September 2013
E-mail logs to: (none)
Upload log at: http://fpqrp.org/pigrun/autolog.php
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://fpqrp.org/pigrun/

Next weeks contests

NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint, 00:30 - 02:30 UTC 19 September
NCCC RTTY Sprint Ladder, 01:30 UTC-02:00 UTC 20 September
NCCC Sprint, 02:30 UTC-03:00 UTC 20 September

HF Happenings

HF_Happenings-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

AGB NEMIGA Contest, 21:00 UTC-24:00 UTC 20 September

Scandinavian Activity Contest, CW, 12:00 UTC 21 September to 12:00 UTC 22 September

South Carolina QSO Party, 14:00 UTC 21 September to 03:00 UTC 22 September

QRP Afield, 15:00 UTC 21 September to 03:00 UTC 22 September

Feld Hell Sprint, 16:00 UTC-18:00 UTC 21 September

Washington State Salmon Run, 16:00 UTC 21 September to 07:00 UTC 22 September 16:00 - 24:00 UTC 22 September

BARTG Sprint 75, 17:00 - 21:00 UTC 22 September

2012 DXCC Yearbook

The DXCC Blog Web Page reports, "The 2012 DXCC Yearbook is now available online to ARRL members worldwide via the August 2013 Digital QST. To access this publication visit the Digital QST page at www.arrl.org/qst and www.arrl.org/img/170x130/DXCC_Items/2012YB.jpg. Look down to 'QST Digital Archives'. Click Go Now on this link. The various Digital QST covers will appear and the DXCC yearbook will always be in the August edition. When you open August 2013 QST on the cover is a yellow icon in the lower portion of the cover labelled 'Includes the 2012 DXCC Yearbook'. Click this to open the yearbook. You can read it directly online or print it out for future reference. Again, access to this is by ARRL Members, worldwide."

Tony's 10 Metre Report

Things really should be looking better, but not so far and it is almost autumn when conditions traditionally improve. A fair bit of DX about though, H70ORO (Nicaragua), D44AC (Cape Verde), ZS2I (South Africa), 3B9EME (Rodrigues Island) V55V/P (Namibia) and JA6WJL (Japan) to name but a few. Not many /P stations about so I guess conditions for the Region 1 Field Day were poor, at least on 10 m. Tony, G4CJC, only worked ZS3FS on PSK31 on Sunday. Nothing else came in all week. Steve, M0STC, only worked EA8/DD5ZZ 5/7 PSK31 on Monday and he has a good beam!

Last weeks photo was taken aboard the USS Missouri on V-J Day with the surrender of Japan. What is the name of the South African officer who was present at this ceremony?

The South African officer was Comdr A P Cartwright of the SA Naval Force, the senior South African officer on the staff of Admiral Chester Nimitz, the Allied commander-in-chief in the Pacific Ocean. http://samilitaryhistory.org/vol103aw.html

History This Week for the week starting 9 September

1716 - Boston Light, the first lighthouse in America was first lighted just before sunset.

1830 - The Liverpool to Manchester line was ceremonially opened in England. It was built by George Stephenson.

1833 - The first imported shipment of ice arrived in Calcutta, India, from Boston, Mass., U.S.

1846 - Elias Howe patents the sewing machine.

1853 - First electric telegraph in use, Merchant's Exchange to Pt Lobos

1908 - Orville Wright makes first 1-hour airplane flight, Fort Myer, Va

1958 - Jack Kilby demonstrated his invention of a miniaturized electronic circuit to his supervisor at Texas Instruments, now recognised as the first integrated circuit.

1973 - First all Australian women's US Open final, (Court beats Goolagong)